

# RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN IN 2004

A school system might use information on race and Hispanic origin to help meet the needs of its students or to design cultural activities that reflect diversity in the community. A business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will stock in a new store. Government needs information on race and Hispanic origin to implement and evaluate programs, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Healthcare Improvement Act, the Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and others.

## Five Single-Race Groups and the Two-or-More-Races Population

On July 1, 2004, 98 percent of all U.S. residents, or 289.2 million people, belonged to 1 of the 5 single racial groups, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.<sup>4</sup> People who were White and no other race made up the largest group and numbered 236.1 million in 2004, as shown in Table 1. The

<sup>4</sup> Population estimates for 2004 are for the total resident population, including people living in institutions (primarily correctional institutions and nursing homes) who are not included in the survey data shown in the following chapters.

## Words That Count

**Racial and Hispanic-origin classifications** used in this chapter adhere to revised standards adopted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in October 1997 and implemented in Census 2000 and in surveys in 2003 and later.<sup>1</sup> While these standards ask individuals to report one or more racial groups, surveys conducted in 2002 or earlier asked individuals to identify only one race.

**Race** estimates in this chapter include six categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Two or More Races.<sup>2</sup> This report uses the term Black to refer to people who are Black or African American, and the term Pacific Islander to refer to people who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.<sup>3</sup>

The **single-race population** (called the “alone” population in tables) refers to people who identified only one race.

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see <[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/ombdir15.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/ombdir15.html)>.

<sup>2</sup> Racial categories from surveys conducted in 2002 or earlier shown in some of the following chapters include three racial groups: White, Black or African American, and Asian and Pacific Islander.

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of the Population Estimates Program, the Some Other Race alone population used in Census 2000 was redistributed to other race categories based on the characteristics of other people in the same household or neighborhood.

The **“alone-or-in-combination” population** refers to a single-race population plus any people who are of the specified race in combination with any other race. For instance, the Black alone-or-in-combination population includes all people who report Black plus people who report Black in combination with one or more races (White, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander). When all five alone-or-in-combination racial groups are added together, the sum is greater than the total population.

**Hispanic or Latino origin** refers to people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Hispanic origin. This report uses the term Hispanic to refer to all people of Hispanic or Latino origin. People of Hispanic origin may be any race. Because race and Hispanic origin are separate concepts, the racial categories of White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Pacific Islander all contain some people of Hispanic origin.

**Non-Hispanic** refers to all people whose ethnicity is not Hispanic. In this chapter and throughout this report, the term **non-Hispanic White** is used to indicate people who are White and no other race and who are not Hispanic.

Table 1.  
**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000 and 2004**

(Numbers in thousands)

Race and Hispanic origin	April 1, 2000		July 1, 2004		Change 2000 to 2004	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total population .....</b>	<b>281,424.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>293,655.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,230.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>
One race .....	277,526.9	98.6	289,216.7	98.5	11,689.8	4.2
White .....	228,106.5	81.1	236,057.8	80.4	7,951.3	3.5
Black or African American .....	35,704.9	12.7	37,502.3	12.8	1,797.4	5.0
American Indian and Alaska Native .....	2,663.9	0.9	2,824.8	1.0	160.9	6.0
Asian .....	10,589.1	3.8	12,326.2	4.2	1,737.1	16.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander ...	462.5	0.2	505.6	0.2	43.1	9.3
Two or More Races .....	3,897.7	1.4	4,438.8	1.5	541.1	13.9
<b>Race alone or in combination:*</b>						
White .....	231,436.4	82.2	239,880.1	81.7	8,443.7	3.6
Black or African American .....	37,105.0	13.2	39,232.5	13.4	2,127.5	5.7
American Indian and Alaska Native .....	4,225.1	1.5	4,409.4	1.5	184.3	4.4
Asian .....	12,006.7	4.3	13,956.6	4.8	1,949.9	16.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander ...	906.8	0.3	976.4	0.3	69.6	7.7
Hispanic or Latino (any race) .....	35,306.3	12.5	41,322.1	14.1	6,015.8	17.0
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino .....	195,577.0	69.5	197,840.8	67.4	2,263.8	1.2

\*The sum of the alone-or-in-combination populations is larger than the total because some people belong to more than one racial group.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2004.

single-race Black population was 37.5 million and the single-race Asian population was 12.3 million. The single-race American Indian and Alaska Native population accounted for 2.8 million people in the United States. The smallest single-race category was the Pacific Islander population, numbering 506,000 in 2004. Another 2 percent of the total population, or 4.4 million people, belonged to the Two-or-More-Races population. The Two-or-More-Races population plus the five single-race populations equal the total population.

### Race Alone or in Combination

In 2004, 239.9 million people were either single-race White or White in combination with one or more races. These two groups accounted for 82 percent of the total U.S. resident population, while single-race Whites represented 80 percent.

The single-race Black population and Blacks in combination with one or more races equaled 39.2 million in 2004. While the percentage of people who were Black and no other race was 12.8 percent of U.S. residents, the percentage who were single-race Black and Black in combination with some other race was 13.4 percent.

Asians who were one race or in combination with other races numbered 14.0 million in 2004. Single-race Asians represented 4.2 percent of all Americans,

while single-race Asians plus those in combination with one or more other races represented 4.8 percent.

The population of American Indians and Alaska Natives alone or in combination with other races (4.4 million) was 56 percent higher than the population of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives. While single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives represented 1.0 percent of the U.S. total, this group in combination with their counterparts of more than one race represented 1.5 percent.

The population of Pacific Islanders alone or in combination with other racial groups (976,000) was nearly twice as large as the single-race Pacific Islander population. The expanded group's share of the U.S. total was 0.3 percent, compared with 0.2 percent for single-race Pacific Islanders.

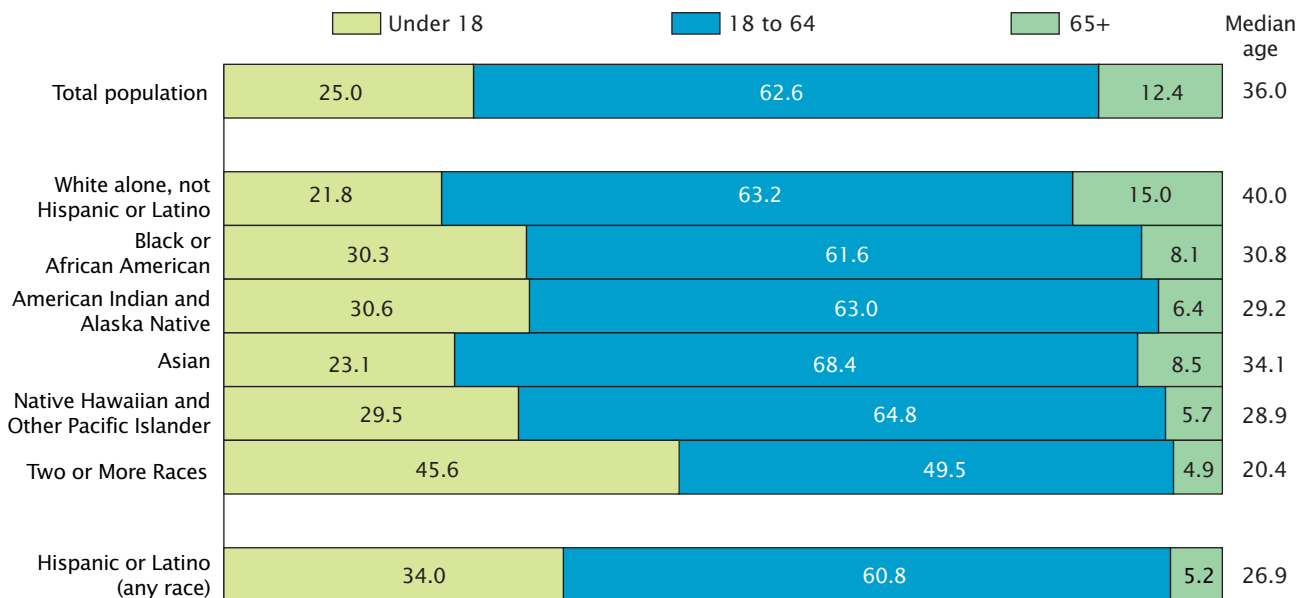
### Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White

With 41.3 million people, the Hispanic population accounted for 14 percent of the total U.S. population on July 1, 2004. Nearly all Hispanics (99 percent) belonged to only one racial group. Among Hispanics, 92 percent were White, 4 percent were Black, 1 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.6 percent were Asian, and 0.3 percent were Pacific Islander.

Figure 1.

## Age Distribution for the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004

(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, July 1, 2004.

About 583,000 Hispanics, 1 percent of all Hispanics, were more than one race.

In 2004, people who were single-race non-Hispanic White numbered 197.8 million. They represented 67 percent of all people living in the United States.

The remainder of this chapter will discuss five single-race populations (Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, and non-Hispanic White), as well as the Two-or-More-Races population and the Hispanic population.

### Rates of Change

Between Census Day (April 1, 2000) and July 1, 2004, the population of the United States increased 4 percent. Growth rates differed among the racial and Hispanic-origin groups. The slowest-growing group was also the largest. The non-Hispanic White population increased by about 1 percent—one-fourth the national rate. As a result, the population of non-Hispanic Whites declined as a proportion of the entire population, falling from 70 percent in April 2000 to about 67 percent in July 2004.

All other racial and Hispanic-origin groups grew faster than the national rate between 2000 and 2004. The Black population increased 5 percent and the American Indian and Alaska Native population increased 6 percent. The Pacific Islander population had a 9-percent gain. The growth rate for people who were Two or More Races was even higher, 14 percent. The fastest-growing racial group was the Asian population, increasing by 16 percent between 2000 and 2004. The Hispanic population was 17 percent larger in 2004 than in 2000.

From 2000 to 2004, non-Hispanic Whites were the one group with a declining share of the total population. The proportion of the population who were Pacific Islander (0.2 percent) remained unchanged. The American Indian and Alaska Native proportion grew slightly—from 1.4 percent to 1.5 percent. The Black population also saw a slight increase—from 12.7 percent to 12.8 percent. The Asian population increased from 3.8 percent to 4.2 percent of all U.S. residents. Hispanics experienced the largest percentage-point increase in share, rising from 12 percent of the population in 2000 to 14 percent in 2004.

## Age Distribution

In 2004, the median age for the country as a whole was 36.0 years.<sup>5</sup> The non-Hispanic White population had the highest median age (40.0 years), as shown in Figure 1. The Black and Asian populations had median ages of 30.8 and 34.1, respectively. The median age was 29.2 for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The youngest racial group was the Two-or-More-Races population, with a median age of 20.4. The median age for Hispanics was 26.9 years.

In 2004, the proportion of people 65 and older was highest among non-Hispanic Whites, 15 percent compared with 12 percent of the total population. The next highest proportions were among the Black and Asian populations. About 8 percent of each of these groups was 65 and older. About 6 percent of both the Pacific Islander and the American Indian and Alaska Native population were this age. The racial group with the smallest share 65 and older was the Two-or-More-Races group, with 5 percent in this age range. Five percent of Hispanics were aged 65 and older.

The share of children among the racial and Hispanic-origin groups was almost the inverse of the share of older adults. The non-Hispanic White population had the smallest proportion of children—22 percent were under 18, compared with 25 percent in the total population. Twenty-three percent of Asians were under 18, while the proportion was 30 percent to 31 percent for Pacific Islanders, Blacks, and American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Two-or-More-Races population had the largest proportion of children, 46 percent. Among Hispanics, 34 percent were under age 18.

## The Distribution of the Black Population

While 13 percent of people living in the United States in 2004 were Black, percentages differed by state, as shown in Figure 2. Fifty-seven percent of the population in the District of Columbia was Black in 2004. Among the states, Mississippi had the highest proportion of Blacks (37 percent), followed by Louisiana (33 percent), Georgia (30 percent), South Carolina (29 percent), and Maryland (29 percent). Among states outside the South, New York had the highest percentage of Blacks (17 percent). The states with the lowest percentages of Blacks were more scattered. The share

<sup>5</sup> The median age is the midpoint of the distribution at which half of the population is older and half younger.

of Blacks was less than 1 percent in Montana, Idaho, Vermont, North Dakota, Maine, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and New Hampshire.

## The Distribution of the American Indian and Alaska Native Population

In 2004, 1 percent of the total U.S. population were American Indians and Alaska Natives and 16 percent of people living in Alaska were this race, as shown in Figure 3. The next highest state was New Mexico, where 10 percent were American Indians and Alaska Natives. South Dakota (9 percent), Oklahoma (8 percent), and Montana (6 percent) followed. On the other end of the scale were Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio, where about 0.2 percent of residents were American Indians and Alaska Natives.

## The Distribution of the Asian Population

In 2004, 42 percent of people living in Hawaii were Asian, compared with 4 percent of all people living in the United States, as shown in Figure 4. California was a distant second with 12 percent. The next three states with the highest percentages were New Jersey (7 percent), New York (6 percent), and Washington (6 percent). On the other end of the scale were Montana (0.5 percent), West Virginia (0.6 percent), Wyoming (0.6 percent), North Dakota (0.7 percent), and South Dakota (0.7 percent).

## The Distribution of the Pacific Islander Population

Hawaii was the state where people were most likely to be Pacific Islander, 9 percent, as shown in Figure 5. The percentage of Pacific Islanders was less than 1 percent in all other states and the District of Columbia.

## The Distribution of the Two-or-More-Races Population

Less than 2 percent of the country's population was in the Two or More Races population in 2004 and 20 percent of the population in Hawaii belonged to this group, as shown in Figure 6. About 5 percent of the population in Alaska and about 4 percent of the population in Oklahoma was Two or More Races, as was 3 percent of the population in Washington. At least 2 percent of the population was Two or More Races in Nevada, California, and Oregon. Mississippi had the lowest proportion of its population in the Two-or-More-Races category (0.6 percent).

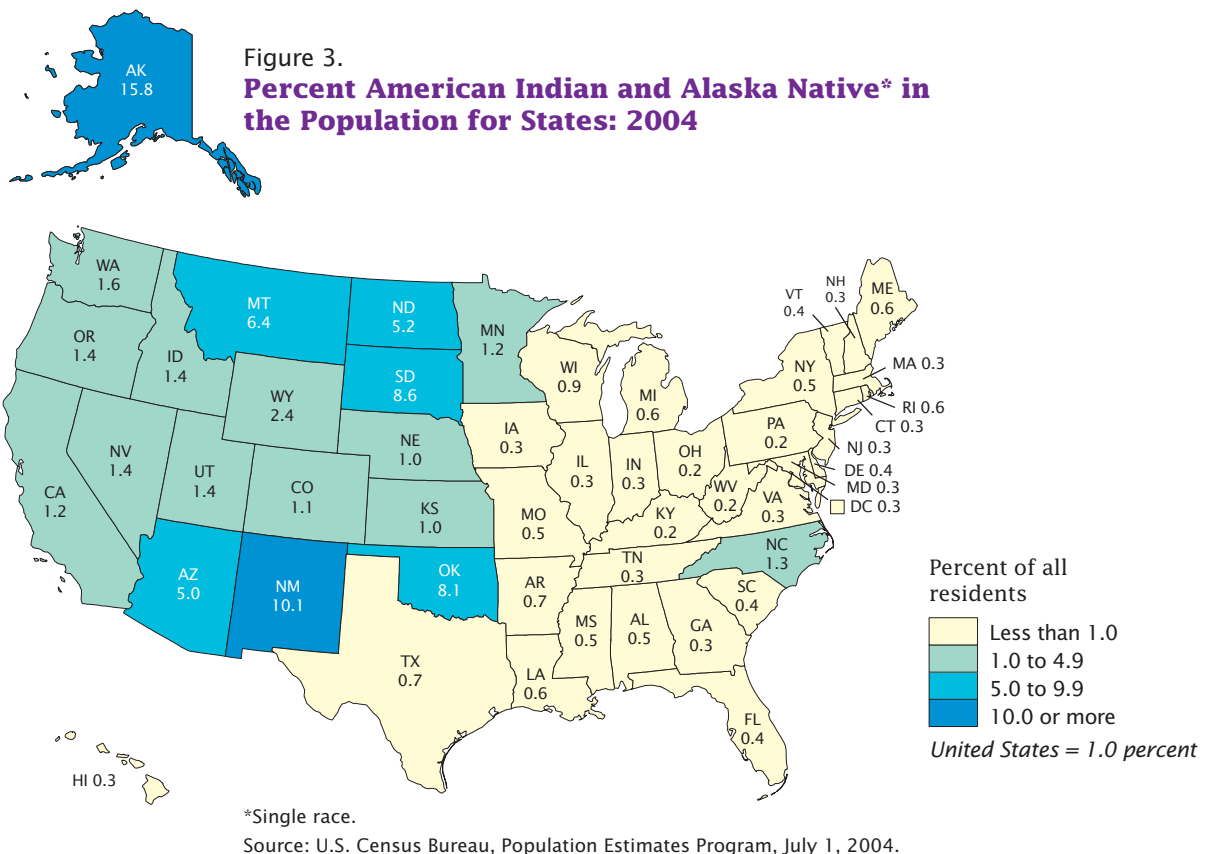
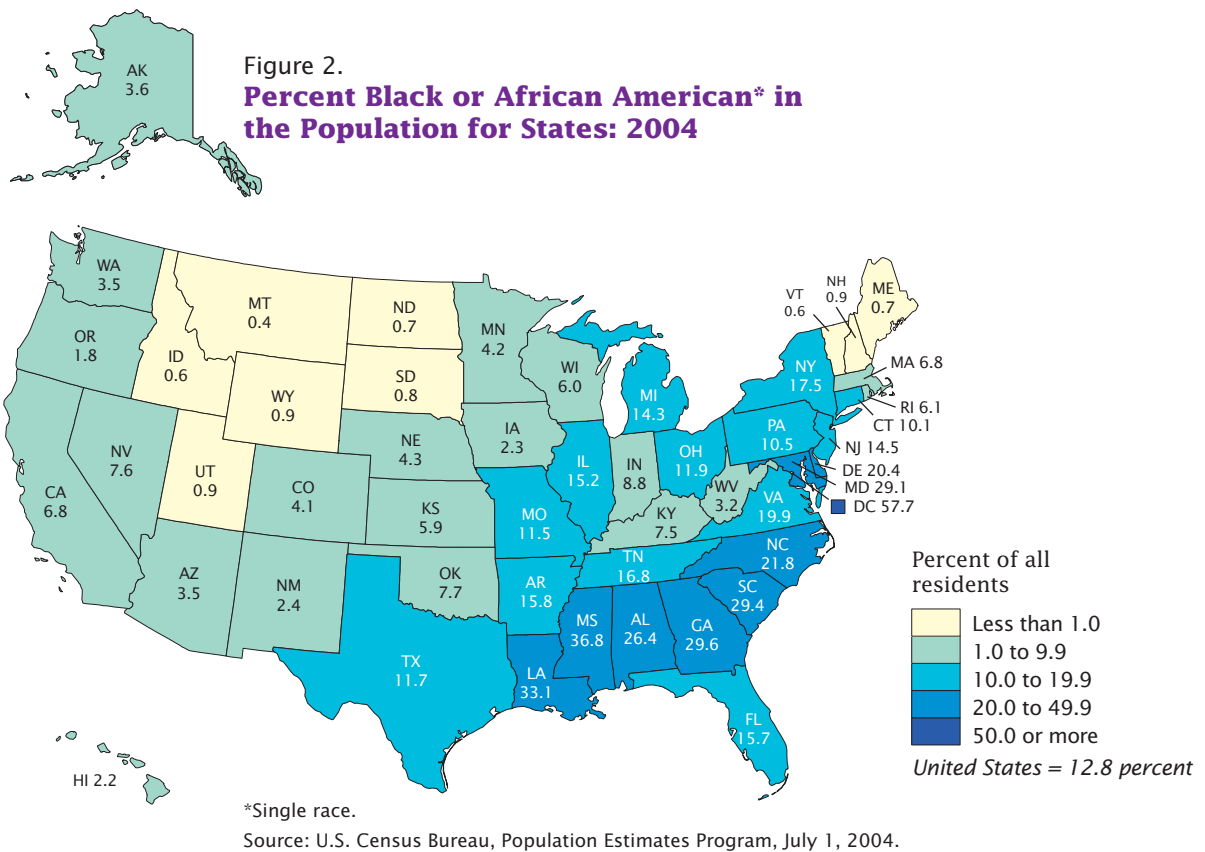


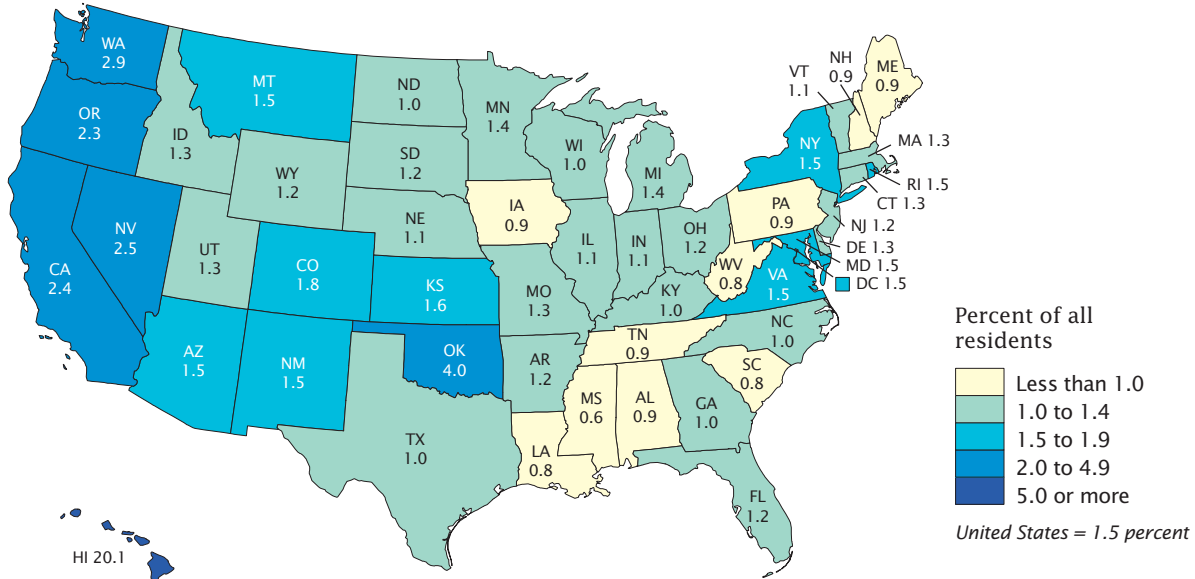






Figure 6.

## Percent Two or More Races in the Population for States: 2004



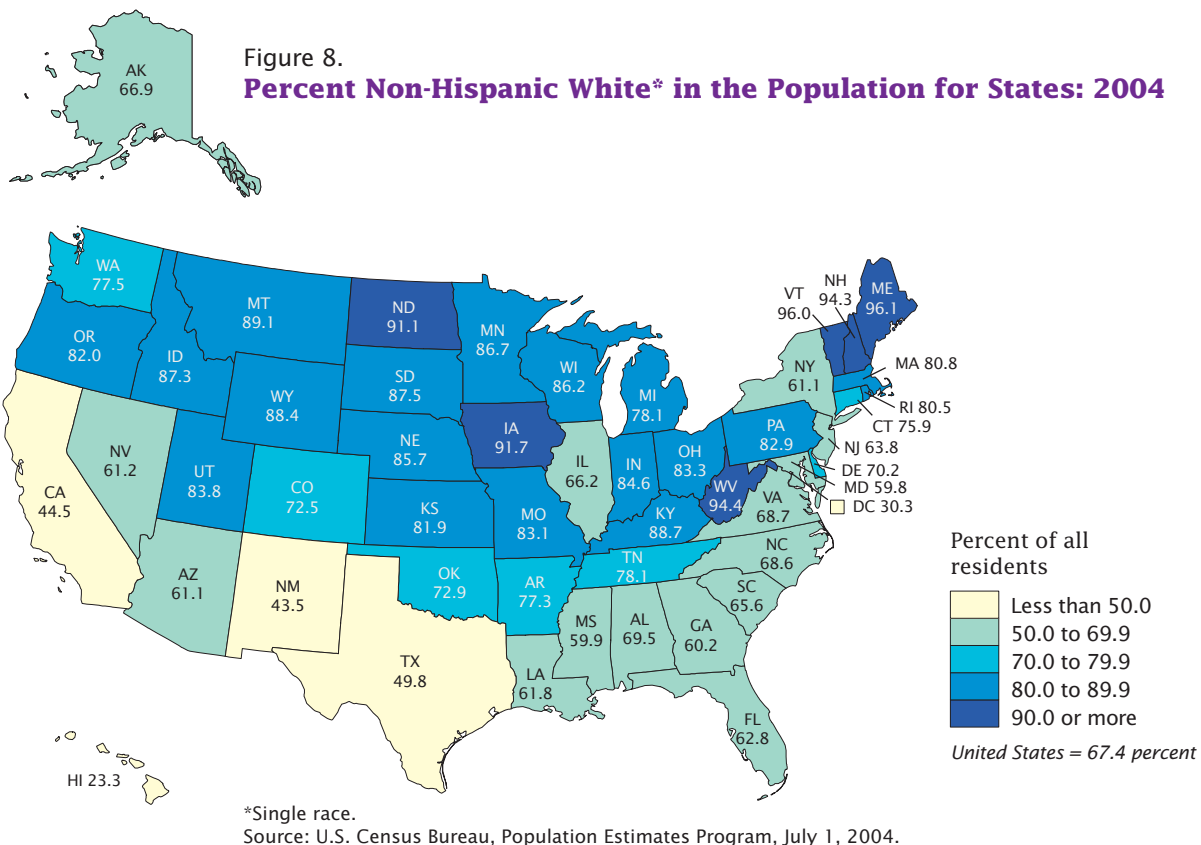
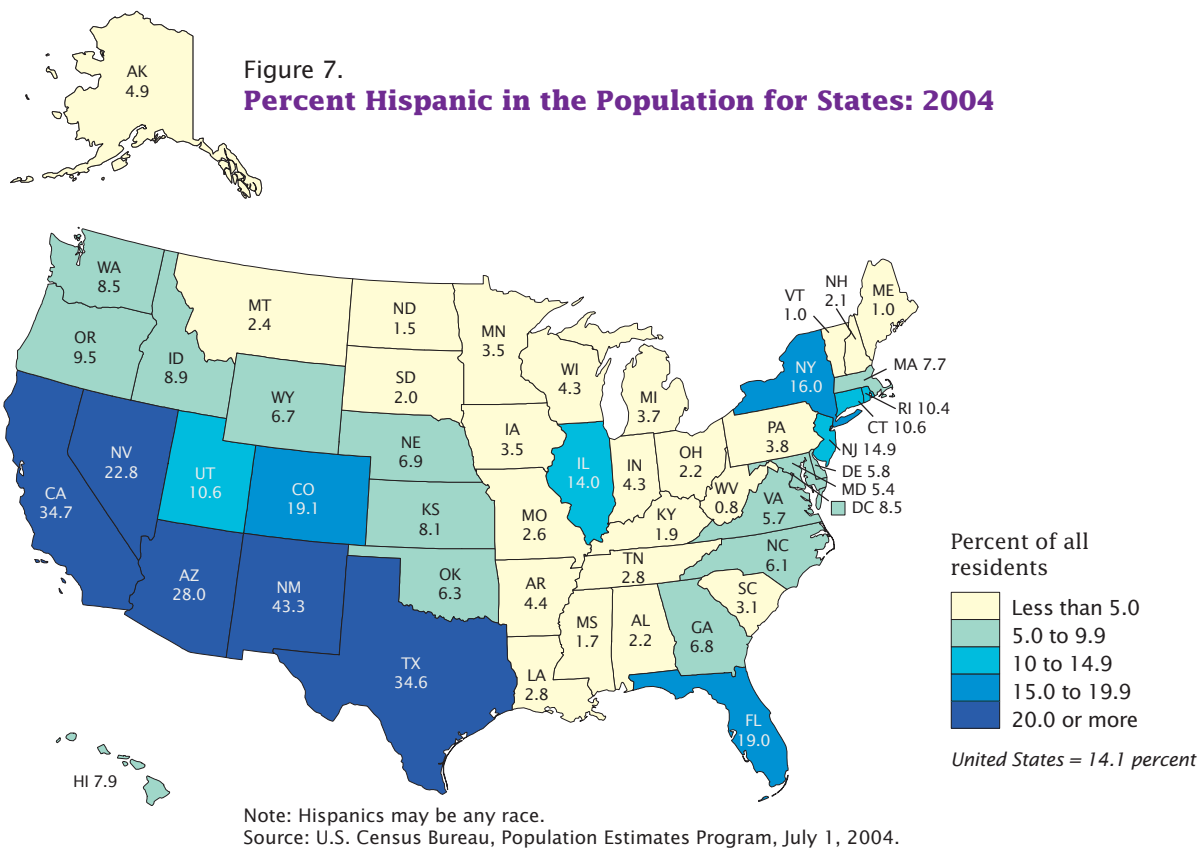
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, July 1, 2004.

## The Distribution of the Hispanic or Latino Population

In 2004, the state with the highest percentage of Hispanics was New Mexico. More than 43 percent of its population was Hispanic, compared with the national rate of 14 percent, as shown in Figure 7. California and Texas had the next-highest percentages, both about 35 percent. Arizona (28 percent) and Nevada (23 percent) followed. In both Colorado and Florida, the percentage of Hispanics was about 19 percent. West Virginia had the lowest percentage of Hispanics, 0.8 percent, followed by Maine (1.0 percent).

## The Distribution of the Non-Hispanic White Population

The proportion of non-Hispanic Whites was about 96 percent in Maine and Vermont, as shown in Figure 8. New Hampshire and West Virginia followed, with 94 percent. Iowa ranked fifth, with 92 percent. In 2004, the non-Hispanic White resident population was 50 percent or less in four states: Hawaii (23 percent), New Mexico (43 percent), California (45 percent), and Texas (50 percent). In the District of Columbia, 30 percent of residents were non-Hispanic White.





## The Census Bureau Can Tell You More

For more information, consult the following U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Reports: *The Asian and Pacific Islander Population in the United States: March 2002* (P20-540) by Terrance Reeves and Claudette Bennet; *The Black Population in the United States: March 2002* (P20-541) by Jesse McKinnon; and *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2002* (P20-545) by Roberto Ramirez and G. Patricia de la Cruz.<sup>6</sup>

Additional information on race and Hispanic origin can be found in the chapters that follow.

Look for information on related topics on the Census Bureau's Web site <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. Select "Estimates" on the home page or click on "H" for "Hispanics" and "R" for "Race."

Contact the Census Bureau's Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or e-mail <[pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov)>.

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<sup>6</sup> The three reports shown here are based on data from the 2002 Current Population Survey (CPS). Because of their small sample size in the 2002 CPS, reports were not issued for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and the Two or More Races Population.